

(Bulletin for Statehouse, Capitol Mall Employees May 20, 2002)

Department of Administration
Construction Update No. 38

Investigatory Demolition Schedule

According to **Mark Gier, CSHQA**, the contractor will be working on State Capitol ceiling demolition **from 5:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, May 20 – 22**. After the contractor drills the holes in the ceiling, CSHQA architects take pictures to document what is above the ceilings and to locate the beams. Then the plaster repair person repairs the holes – this repair work will be done primarily on the weekends.

Danielle Weaver, CSHQA, sent us the picture (to the right) of the space between the original plaster ceiling in the State Capitol and the concrete structure above.

Danielle reports that in general everything was as expected above the plaster ceilings. The only big surprise was that above the House of Representatives chamber entry, there are two plaster ceilings built on top of each other, with about an 8” gap between them. CSHQA’s theory is that during the first phase of the Capitol construction, they built the highest plaster ceiling; then they built the lower one during the second phase to provide a continuous ceiling into the wing addition. Danielle tells us that most of the thick walls in the Capitol are constructed from large clay tiles, and you can see one of these walls in this photo. There is also a concrete beam above and the backside of the House of Representative’s east wall is beyond.



Copper Flashing Question

We have received a question from Eric Jensen in the Attorney General’s Office: “Is that brass or copper molding around the upper portion of the Capitol? It looks as if some was replaced ... are they going to “polish up” all of it?”

Jan Frew, Division of Public Works Design & Construction Manager, answered Eric as follows: “The material you are referring to is called flashing. Its purpose is to divert water off of the horizontal stone surface. It is made of copper. Copper is used in this type of application because of its corrosion resistance and longevity. This is borne out by the current condition of the flashing. There were very few areas that needed to be replaced. The bright sections you see are new materials replacing areas that had cracked or failed.

As the copper ages it will take on a patina or weathered look that is dark grey, nearly black. This is a normal and expected process. To clean or “polish” the existing copper would actually damage the copper sheet due to the amount of abrasion needed to scrape off the outer aged layer. Within a few years the new sections will blend in with the old. An interesting side note is that the copper patina in coastal or humid areas is green in color, not black. Those lovely photos of old Italian cathedrals with green roofs is an example of this.” *The photo above shows some new copper flashing on the south side of the Capitol; the part with patina is not reflecting the sunlight like the new does.*

